



**MINUTES OF THE  
WASHOE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING**

November 15, 2021

Zoom Webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78207944707?pwd=ZkgvSHFXeUxzMkNXRXNaWHd3R1F1dz09>

1. **\*Call To Order** - Meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Chair- Hawah Ahmad.
2. **\*Roll Call** – Hawah Ahmad asked for the roll call; Sandra Vasquez took the roll. There was a quorum present via in person and through Zoom meeting.

**WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:**

**PRESENT VIRTUALLY**

Martha Lavin  
James Doyle  
Ethan Hovest  
Linda Hardie  
Rick Sorensen

Deborah Whitehouse  
Sarah Deardorff  
Pamela Roberts  
Hawah Ahmad  
MaryAnn McCauley

**ABSENT (EXCUSED\*)**

\*Barbara Korosa  
\*Casey Reed

**WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT**

Abby Willrich

Sandra Vasquez  
Herbert Kaplan (DA)

**ADVISOR PRESENT**

Donna Clontz  
Dr. Larry Weiss

**ADVISOR (ABSENT)**

Victoria Edmondson  
Connie McMullen

3. **\*Public Comment** –

None.

4. **\*Member Announcements** –

None.

5. **Approval of the Special Meeting Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on November 15, 2021 (For Possible Action)**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Linda Hardie and seconded by Deborah Whitehouse. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Discussion, possible revision of a draft letter regarding the Board's request for the use of funds obtained through the American Rescue Plan Act for Washoe County's older adults, to include: a) a housing navigator/real estate expert within Human Services Agency and increase in homemaker slots; b) technology training to have tech ambassador train the trainer and purchase some equipment; c) having a service to pick up medications and have transportation available to make a trip to pick up medication and have transportation for behavioral health; d) to increase funding in the nutritional program which include home delivered meals and congregate meals; e) for housing, including emergency assistance for housing and disability repairs or other types of repairs and ongoing case management; and f) work with low income and moderate-income seniors to have a staff person to generate tax credits to rental landlords. If the letter is approved, as presented or with revisions, the Board may authorize the Chair to sign the letter on the behalf of the Board. (For Possible Action)**

Attachment: [11-15-21 BCC Draft Letter.pdf \(washoecounty.gov\)](#)

[11-15-21 Donna ARPA Recs WC.pdf \(washoecounty.gov\)](#)

Hawah and Abby thanked MaryAnn for writing the draft letter. Abby stated there is a couple things to keep in mind, one of things are the one-shot types of interest. First, the Reno building was designed to make about 40 to 50 thousand meals in a year and they are currently making over half a million in a year. The building is falling apart, and the kitchen needs a major remodel. There is also a need for more homemaker slots and transportation would fall better under the state. HSA was not able to provide transportation effectively in previous times. Donna stated during COVID, HSA had transportation services for seniors. She and Larry volunteered to drive the county vehicles but has learned that those transportation vehicles are no longer used. It would be good to look at connecting people with transportation, one of the issues with isolation is lack of transportation. Donna would not like to lose the transportation idea. Hawah asked if Donald Abbott of City of Sparks has transportation services, he replied they do not. Hawah asked if City of Sparks could look into transportation services for seniors, Donald will look into it. Ethan stated the issue is that sometimes seniors don't have access to transportation when they have to pick up medicine or there is a critical medical moment. Hawah stated they should reach out to medical facilities and maybe that way find a transportation resource, but they should leave transportation as it is in the letter. Hawah asked if the first paragraph wording is good, Rick replied yes. Hawah asked if building repairs should be number 1. Abby stated housing should stay as the number one issue, not necessarily the Reno building update. Item 1 has spelling errors that will be corrected. Larry recommends to add to item 1 after a) obtaining affordable housing for low and maybe moderate income elders. Hawah suggested to add "if funds are available." Donna stated that in her letter they spoke about a pilot project to work with local landlords about rental increases. Hawah is concerned since it's a pilot project, it may constrict the funds. The Board discussed having a Grant item in the letter. For item 2a, Hawah suggests changing it to 200 positions. Also, add a d item per Donna's request. Abby stated to change 2c by adding meal vehicles. Hawah stated they need to delete the 'Funding Request' wording. Donna requested to add 2d. For item 3, transportation is a regional issue. Wording on item 3a needs change to reflect the issue. Donna stated she has talked to Amy Dewitt-Smith and she is receiving funding for transportation, it would be good to have her do a presentation on what she is doing. Pam stated it's really important to expand transportation to the outer rural areas and in regard to the letter, she'd like to know if someone presents the letter. Hawah stated she will be at the commissioner meeting. Hawah added they need to add an item 4 to the letter in regard to the building improvements. Deborah asked if they are asking for a new building or a renovation or are they leaving it open. Hawah stated it's best to leave it open. Abby stated the kitchen is in

great need of renovation because of how many meals are coming out of the kitchen. Donna asked what happened to the kitchen in the NNAMH campus, Abby stated it would not work for them. Donna stated they need an item 5 for ARPA grant funding. Hawah and the Board members revised the final letter to the commissioners (see attachment below).

Attachment: [11-15-21 Letter to commissioners Final.pdf \(washoecounty.gov\)](#)

Motion to approve the letter with typos and changes was made by Linda Hardie and seconded by Deborah Whitehouse. Motion passed unanimously.

Letter was signed by Chair Hawah Ahmad.

**7. \*Public comment –**

Marsy Kupfersmith thanked Donna for bringing up housing; she is part of the Friends of Washoe Library and the library suggestion is wonderful. Also, since ARPA is one shot funding, it would be great if the grant went to something where they could have a resource booklet and distribute it to seniors.

**8. Adjournment (For Possible Action)**

Motion to adjourn was made by Deborah Whitehouse and seconded by Linda Hardie. Motion was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 10:52 am.